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Newsletter

GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

March 26, 1952

To the Faculty, Committee Members and others associated with the Graduate School:

During the past month,

while getting better acquainted with the work of GS, I have come to appreciate more than ever before the basic factors which through the years have made possible its growth and its increasing effectiveness in providing desired educational services. These factors were noted recently by Secretary Brannan when he wrote:

"The success of the Graduate School is largely conditioned on the active interest and participation in its program by many employees of the Department, whether as students, teachers, committee workers, Council members, or members of the General Administration Board. I realize that such support is basically voluntary and gratuitous. But it is this very fact that makes the Graduate School of increasing importance."

I also have begun to sense certain areas of interest which, if they can be developed, may provide GS with new or additional opportunities for service in its field of activity. It is too early to initiate positive action aimed at development of these areas of interest; they need to be more fully explored. To this end, I hope to be able to discuss them from time to time in various group meetings. We tentatively discussed some preliminary suggestions in the Council meeting, March 7.

In the absence

of T. Roy Reid, chairman of the General Administration Board will be Assistant Secretary Knox T. Hutchinson. Mr. Reid sailed March 12 for a State Department assignment of 3 months in Germany. His task will be to appraise the social and economic adequacy of the vocational agriculture program and assist administrators and teacher trainees in organizing and using present facilities to advantage.

The men in charge of USDA's Office of Personnel during Mr. Reid's stay in Germany are well known to GS faculty and committee members. They are: James L. Buckley, who will be acting Director through May 4; S. B. Herrell, who assumes the post from May 5 through June 16; and C. O. Henderson, who will serve as acting assistant director through the entire period.

From Iraq

L. H. Rohrbaugh writes, "Finally I rented a house ... bang on the Tigris. It is a large Turkish house, open on one side with quite a courtyard. There's a garden in the rear about one fifth of a mile long surrounded by the typical mud wall. I have olive and date and orange trees and, of all things, a cow, and if I can get them and get them settled before my wife gets here there will be chickens and I will win a 20-year argument."

As plans progress,

we see that the Sixth International Grassland Congress to be held at State College, Pa., the week of August 17, will be a truly international meeting. Grassland leaders from 60 countries have been invited to attend. As General Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Congress I will be giving more of my time to these plans during the next few months. With five other members of the Organizing Committee, I spent March 11 and 12 in State College going over local arrangements for the housing and entertainment of 2000 or more delegates on the campus of Pennsylvania State College. We found that President Milton Eisenhower and his staff are doing a magnificent job in preparation for the Congress. The visiting group included W. A. Minor of the Secretary's office, co-chairman of the Grassland Program Steering Committee; W. R. Chapline of the Forest Service, Executive Secretary of the Organizing Committee; H. T. Baldwin, chairman of Exhibits Committee; Lyle Webster, Director of Information, Chairman of the Information Committee; and J. S. Sagona of the Division of International Conferences, State Department.

Another GS author

is Marjorie C. Johnston (Languages and Literature) who with Eddie Ruth Huton and Manuel Ponciano L. has written EN MARCHA, A First Course in Spanish. The presentation is simple, within the limits of a 1700 word vocabulary. The authors say when the student completes the introductory lessons, he can pronounce Spanish with a degree of independence and is able to converse in simple language about everyday life. Dr. Johnson is with the Division of Higher Education of the Office of Education.

A painting showing

action on the Korean Front, recently presented to General L. C. Shepherd of the Marine Corps, is the work of GS Instructor Duane McKenna. An artist-illustrator with Navy's Bureau of Ships, Mr. McKenna holds a BFA from the University of South Dakota and has studied at the Art Students League and Corcoran School of Art. He joined the GS faculty this spring to teach a course in pencil sketching.

New among the 50 courses

scheduled for the summer term are "A Review of Statistical Analysis," "Newsriting Workshop," a non-credit course in "Creative Writing". The first will be taught by Frank Proschan of the Bureau of Standards and the class will meet twice a week. Howard L. Kany of the Associated Press and radio representative and editor of Washington News Report will conduct the workshop. Frances Miller, who teaches English composition during the winter semester, will teach the writing course.

We also are offering 4 courses that have been given before only during the fall and spring semesters: "Everyday Russian," "Elementary Portuguese," "Color Photography I," "General Oceanography." George Saharov, who teaches in GS in the winter, will give the course in Russian. The one in Portuguese will be taught by Jacob Ornstein, who is on leave from the University of New Mexico. Mike Young will be the instructor in photography. Richard Vetter, Navy Hydrographic Office, will give the course in oceanography.

Ollie Mae Sills is taking over "Government Letter Writing" for the summer term and will in the future alternate with Verne Samson in teaching the course. Dr. Sills received her education at LSU, is a training specialist with the Air Force.

"Ethics in any group,"

observed Thurman Arnold recently, "arise out of a sense of tradition and pride in their particular calling. Humiliate that group; subject them to constant restriction and supervision; refuse to trust them in any of their activities in or out of government -- and you destroy any possibility of an effective ethical code. You must first create a sense of pride before you can create a sense of integrity.

"The present attitude toward Government employees in the press, in Congress, and among the public generally, makes it very difficult to maintain the sense of pride necessary for a code of ethics.

"Influence, in my judgment, is a vastly oversold commodity in Washington, but in the instances where it appears, it will not be curbed by a humiliating restriction placed on Government employees as a whole. If Government service has been deteriorating, I would assign as an important cause that it is becoming so harassed, restricted, preached against, distrusted, and generally kicked around that brilliant young men with other opportunities pass it by."

AMONG OURSELVES

Virgil L. Couch (Office Techniques; Public Administration) has been re-appointed chairman of the Arlington County Civil Service Commission for a 4-year term. The Commission represents public interest in improving personnel administration and advises the county board, county manager, and director of personnel on policies.

O. B. Conaway, assistant director, replaces L. H. Rohrbaugh on the committee on history and international relations in the Department of Social Sciences.

F. C. Bishopp (Biological Sciences) has an article, "Fighting Cotton Insects," in the March issue of Cotton Gin and Oil Mill Press.

New instructor in course 7-548, "Economic Analysis," is Norman Albrecht, an economist with PMA. A graduate of Maryland, Mr. Albrecht holds an MPA from Harvard and has almost completed requirements for a doctorate. He is a former Littauer fellow and taught at Tufts while doing graduate work at Harvard.

We've asked Claude P. Patrick, Nemaha County Soil Conservationists, to represent GS at the inauguration of the new president of Tarkio College, Tarkio, Missouri.

Sincerely,



Director

